(f) what are the reasons that the refunds have not yet been paid to these deemed exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) On the basis of information received from Port Officers outstanding dues against payments of CCS and Supplementary Cash Assistance in lieu of Duty Drawback were assessed at Rs. 1190 crores on 6.12.91. In order to clear the payment of the above dues a sum of Rs. 410 crores was released to various licensing offices in the months of January/February, 1992 and further additional funds of Rs. 260 crores have been released on 26.3.92.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. Representations from M/s. P.J. Pipes & Vessels Ltd. and M/s. BHEL for payment of CCS, supplementary cash assistance in lieu of duty draw-back and refund of central excise duty have been received amounting to Rs. 19.82 crores and Rs. 74.78 crores respectively. Their claims are being processed and paid by port licensing offices. Port licensing offices have been asked to clear the dues starting with CCS against physical exports and deemed exports.

Complaint against the Working of Auction Platforms

4499. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints against the working of auction platforms of Tobacco Board;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Board has advised the traders not to hike the prices on platforms; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Encouragement of Arrivals 'on Tobacco Auction Platforms

4500. DR YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the arrivals are low on tobacco auction platforms when compared to last year;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is due to the feeling among the growers that the tobacco board ganged up with traders to depress the prices;

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to encourage the arrivals;

(e) what is the time upto which the auctions will continue; and

(f) what is the target date to complete the auctions during the present reason?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reasons attributed are non placement of orders by Russia on exporters and non-availability of sufficient credit limits to the traders.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Confirmation of individual orders to the exporters from Russia is expected shortly. After this, there is likely to be stability in the prices. Board has already taken steps to increase the arrivals.

(e) First fortnight of June, 1992.

(f) First week of June, 1992.

Discouraging production of F.C.V. Tobacco

4501. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any indication from his Ministry to the Tobacco Board to discourage production of F.C.V. variety to tobacco that was hitherto sought by erstwhile USSR;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor with what effect; and

(c) what is the extend to which, these have been realised?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) to (c) The advice from Government to Tobacco